

if this entire body belonged to one religion, how the body would feel regardless of the political party that the President belongs to. If every one of us was a registered Republican, would this resolution ever have come up? Or if every one of us was a Democrat, would it have come up? But it was an Independent that brought it up, a man who doesn't belong to either party. I think we're all missing the point. I think what it really is coming down to is politics and whether or not the resolution was offered originally to embarrass the President of the United States, I, for one, would not offer a resolution to do that because I realize how critical our situation is today internationally. Every day is a critical situation anymore when we all have the horrors of nuclear war hanging over us and most of us try every day to forget that in a matter of seconds our own city can be completely destroyed. I wish that we were all united. I don't know what is really in President Reagan's mind. I don't know if he was tricked by the Germans as Senator Chambers has spoken about and that he is really being used kind of as a political puppet and he was not informed at the time when he agreed to do this. I just feel that, myself, I have to say that I want to go on record as saying that I don't want to embarrass the President and whether he does it or not, goes to Bitburg, I don't think he should feel any embarrassment over it. I think if there's any embarrassment, it has already come out in many of the newspapers in this country who have criticized him for it and who have urged him not to do it. I don't know if when Reagan made the decision to do this...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...he was the same President that campaigned for prayer in the schools. I really, truthfully believe that Reagan was misinformed when he made the commitment, that perhaps like many presidents in the past, like Kennedy on the Bay of Pigs, I think Reagan probably had poor advisers or advisers that didn't really realize all that was going on. But I cannot turn my back today after listening to the debate and say I didn't understand the subject. I'm going to vote for the reconsideration of this resolution and I'm doing it not to embarrass President Reagan. He has made his commitment. I guess he has to do it. I don't know how he would get out of it unless he'd suddenly get the flu or take a walk as some of us do and in this case he can't. But I think it's important that we as